Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS S/S FOR BODINE -- FOR TODMAN FROM LEURS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN) PFOR

SUBJECT: DAILY ARA SUMMARY - JUNE 1

1. I MET WITH CONGRESSMAN FASCELL THIS AFTERNOON TO BRIEF HIM ON THE WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS ON CUBA AND OUR PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERESTS SECTIONS. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE MC GOVERN AMENDMENT STRATEGY AND I WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER FURTHER WITH HIM TOMORROW. ALTHOUGH THE SENATE IS NOT IN SESSION, CULVER AND I ARE CALLING THE OFFICES OF THE SAME SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN AND STAFF MEMBERS WE BRIEFED EARLIER, TO GIVE THEMA SIMILAR RUN-DOWN. WE HOPE TO HAVE SWISS AGREEMENT IN TIME TO MAKE INFORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON FRIDAY.
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2. YESTERDAY AND TODAY WE HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT LATIN AMERICAN TOPICS WITH THE BRITISH UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS TED ROWLANDS. MR. HABIB HOSTED A TWO-HOUR PLUS SESSION ON THE CARIBBEAN AND BELIZE. A SEPARATE MEETING FOCUSSED ON SUCH TOPICS AS CUBA, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE FALKLAND

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ISLANDS. THE BRITISH ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT BELIZE AND ARE PRESSING US HARD FOR OPEN SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION. WE WILL BE SENDING THE SECRETARY AN OPTIONS MEMORANDUM SHORTLY.

3. I MET WITH PAUL BOEKER YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC SUB-GROUPS FOR MEXICAN CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT COOPER CALL A MEETING OF THE U.S.-SUB-GROUPCHAIRMAN ON JUNE 6, TO (1) DEVELOP FIRM ROSTER OF U.S. PARTICIPANTS IN INDIVIDUAL SUB-GROUPS, AND (2) PREPARE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA WHICH WE WOULD PROPOSE TO MEXICANS. WE HOPE TO HAVE A FOLLOW-UP STRATEGY FOR YOU WHEN YOU RETURN.

4. LAST WEEK AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE SHOULD SEND A NOTE TO THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, FORMALLY EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN OVER THE CASE OF THE TWO U.S. CLERGYMEN ARRESTED IN RECIFE. THE EMBASSY CAME OUT (MARGINALLY) IN FAVOR OF SENDING THE NOTE PRIOR TO MRS. CARTER'S ARRIVAL. WE HAVE NOW INSTRUCTED THE EMBASSY TO DELIVER SUCH A NOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT WILL BOTH EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR INVESTIGATORY AND REMEDIAL STEPS TAKEN TO DATE BY FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES, AND REGISTER OUR CONCERN OVER FAILURE BY THE LOCAL RECIFE POLICE TO ABIDE BY INTERNATIONAL RULES OF THE CONSULAR NOTIFICATION, ARBITRARY MANNER OF ARREST, AND INHUMANE AND DEGRADING TREATMENT DURING DETENTION.

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5. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN SOME OF THE REPORTS ON PLANS FOR A MEETING OF SOUTHERN CONE CHIEFS OF STATE IN PARAGUAY PERHAPS AS EARLY AS JUNE 3. TO SUMMARIZE -- THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WOULD REPORTEDLY BE TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS OF INTERNAL SUBVERSION AND COMMUNISM, AND TO EXCHANGE REACTIONS TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES TOWARD LATIN AMERICA, PARTICULARLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. MOST OF THE SOUTHERN CONE PRESIDENTS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH A MEETING. ALTHOUGH TRADITIONALLY CHIEF OF STATE MEETINGS ARE CONSIDERABLY EASIER TO DISCUSS THAN TO REALIZE. ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND THE MEETING TO INCLUDE OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO MODERATE ITS COMPOSITION AND OUTCOME. THIS EFFORT AT MODERATION MIGHT LEAD TO A RELATIVELY PRO FORMA REAFFIRMATION OF NON-INTERVENTION AS A PRINCIPLE IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT VENEZUELA, POSSIBLY JOINED BY COLOMBIA, MAY BE THROWING COLD WATER ON THE ENTIRE IDEA. THE BRAZILIANS ARE SUPPOSEDLY PRESSING HARD FOR A MEETING,

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ALTHOUGH THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED AND EMBASSY BRASILIA OBSERVES THAT THIS WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSISTENT OPPOSITION TO THE FORMATION OF BLOCS ON THE CONTINENT (AS REITEREATED TO YOU BY FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ON MAY 13). THE EMBASSY SEES

SOME REASONS WHY MORE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE GOB MIGHT FAVOR THE MEETING, HOWEVER, AND NOTES THAT THE TIMING BEING DISCUSSED WOULD BE QUITE SIGNIFICANT IN VIEW OF MRS. CARTER'S ARRIVAL IN BRAZIL ON JUNE 6. WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED.

6. I ATTENDED THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNING OF THE PACT OF SAN JOSE - THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS- TODAY AT THE PAN AMERICAN UNION. IT WAS A MODEST EVENT WITH ONLY THE OAS AMBASSADORS, A FEW U.S. OFFICIALS AND THE PRESS. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE ELOQUENTLY WITHOUT

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NOTES ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

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